GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:362
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
REMUNERATIVE PRICES TO COTTON GROWERS
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from State Governments particularly Gujarat to provide remunerative support price to the cotton growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate procurement is not done by Cotton Corporation of India and the prices have fallen below the Minimum Support price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 362 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND AUGUST, 2005.

(a)&(b): Keeping in view the fact that the staple length of the variety of cotton grown by majority of the farmers in Gujarat falls short of the norm, i.e. 29.0 mm in respect of Sankar- 6/10 and H-4/H-6 for which the Minimum Support Price (MSP) was fixed at Rs.1960 per quintal for 2004-05, the Government of Gujarat sought relaxation in the staple length of these varieties from 29.0 mm to 28.0 mm. The staple length in respect of these varieties shown in the Order issued by the Office of Textile Commissioner for 2005-06 is 28.0 mm. While the MSP in respect of Sankar −6/10 variety has been raised to Rs.1985 per quintal in 2005-06 from Rs.1960 per quintal in 2004-05, the MSP in respect of H-4/H-6 variety has been raised to Rs.1980 per quintal in 2005-06 from Rs.1960 per quintal in 2004-05. As in the case of other crops covered under the MSP, in the case of cotton also the views received from the respective State Governments with regard to remunerative support price were taken into account in the fixation of Minimum Support Price for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(c)&(d): The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) had undertaken MSP operations in all cotton growing States during 2004-05, and purchased a record quantity of 140.24 lakh quintals of kapas equivalent to 27.52 lakh bales. Keeping in view the need to strengthen the infrastructure for cotton procurement, the Union Government declared the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) as an agency for procurement of cotton, in addition to CCI, in February 2005. Accordingly, NAFED also undertook procurement of cotton, which amounted to 1.84 lakh quintals of kapas, equivalent to 0.39 lakh bales. The details of State-wise procurement are given in Annexure.

ANNEXURE

State-wise Procurement of Cotton during 2004-05

(Lakh bales of 170 kgs each)

States	Procurement by CCI	Procurement by NAFED
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	12.11	-
Karnataka	1.49	-
Orissa	0.24	-
Punjab	1.43	0.09
Maharashtra	1.67	0.01
Madhya Pradesh	1.53	0.01
Gujarat	4.83	0.28

Rajasthan	2.59	-
Haryana	1.63	-
All India	27.52	0.39